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Chef's Garden at
Papillon Restaurant

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NEW RACE



U.S. virus numbers drop, but race against new strains heats up

In this Jan. 23, 2021, file photo, Dorothy Kade, left, holds the hand of her husband, Walter Kade Jr., as they wait in the observation room after he received a COVID-19 vaccine at the VA Medical Center, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press
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Sharing Menu \$50 per couple



2 appetizers



1 Main dish



1 Dessert



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U.S. virus numbers drop, but race against new strains heats up



Faces of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority employees who died of COVID-19 are displayed at Fulton Street station, Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, in the Manhattan borough of New York.

Associated Press

By JONATHAN DREW and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press
Coronavirus deaths and cases per day in the U.S. dropped markedly over the

past couple of weeks but are still running at alarmingly high levels, and the effort to snuff out COVID-19 is becoming an ever more urgent race between the

vaccine and the mutating virus. The government's top infectious-disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said the improvement in numbers around the country appears to reflect a "natural peaking and then plateauing" after a holiday surge, rather than the arrival of the vaccine in mid-December. The U.S. is recording just under 3,100 deaths a day on average, down from more than 3,350 less than two weeks ago. New cases are averaging about 170,000 a day after peaking at almost 250,000 on Jan. 11. The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has fallen to about 110,000 from a high of 132,000 on Jan. 7. States that have been hot spots in recent weeks such as California and Ari-

zona have shown similar improvements during the same period.

On Monday, California lifted regional stay-at-home orders in favor of county-by-county restrictions and ended a 10 p.m. curfew. The shift will allow restaurants and churches to resume outdoor operations and hair and nail salons to reopen in many places, though local officials could maintain stricter rules.

Elsewhere, Minnesota school districts have begun bringing elementary students back for in-person learning. Chicago's school system, the nation's third-largest district, had hoped to bring teachers back Monday to prepare for students to return next month, but the teachers union has refused. Illinois announced that more counties will be able to offer limited indoor dining.

"I don't think the dynamics of what we're seeing now with the plateauing is significantly influenced yet -- it will be soon -- but yet by the vaccine. I just think it's the natural course of plateauing," Fauci told NBC's "Today."

Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington, said that a predicted holiday surge was reduced by people traveling less than expected, and an increase in mask wearing in response to spikes in infections has since helped bring the numbers down.

Caitlin Rivers, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said too few people have been vaccinated so far for that to have had a significant impact on virus trends. She said she can't predict how long it will take for the vaccines' effects to be reflected in the numbers.

Rivers said she is concerned that the more contagious variants of the virus could lead to a deadly resurgence later this year.

"I think we were on track to have a good — or a better, at least — spring and summer, and I'm worried that the variants might be throwing us a curveball," she said. Nationwide, about 18 million people, or less than 6% of the U.S. population, have received at least one dose of vaccine, including about 3 million who have gotten the second shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Only slightly more than half of the 41 million doses distributed to the states by the federal government have been injected into arms, by the CDC's count.

The virus has killed over 419,000 Americans and infected more than 25 million, with a widely cited University of Washington model projecting the death toll will reach about 569,000 by May 1.

And health experts have warned that the more contagious and possibly more deadly variant sweeping through Britain will probably become the dominant source of infection in the U.S. by March. It has been reported in over 20 states so far. Another mutant version is circulating in South Africa.

The more the virus spreads, the more opportunities it has to mutate. The fear is that it will ultimately render the vaccines ineffective.

To guard against the new variants, President Joe Biden on Monday added South Africa to the list of more than two dozen countries whose residents are subject to coronavirus-related limits on entering the U.S. □



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Trump's sway over GOP tested as impeachment heads to Senate

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The impeachment case against Donald Trump is heading toward a historic Senate trial, but Republican senators are easing off their criticism of the former president and shunning calls to convict him over the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol.

It's an early sign of Trump's enduring sway over the party.

House Democrats were to carry the sole impeachment charge of "incitement of insurrection" across the Capitol late Monday, the prosecutors making the ceremonial walk to the Senate. But Republican denunciations of Trump have cooled since the Jan. 6 riot. Instead Republicans are presenting a tangle of legal arguments against the legitimacy of the trial and questions whether Trump's repeated demands to overturn Joe Biden's election really amounted to incitement.

What seemed for some Democrats like an open-shut case that played out for the world on live television, as Trump encouraged a rally mob to "fight like hell" for his presidency, is running into a Republican Party that feels very differently. Not only are there legal concerns, but senators are wary of crossing the former president and his legions of followers who



In this Jan. 6, 2021, file photo with the White House in the background, President Donald Trump speaks at a rally in Washington.

Associated Press

are their voters. Security remains tight at the Capitol. "I think the trial is stupid, I think it's counterproductive," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.. He said that "the first chance I get to vote to end this trial, I'll do it" because he believes it would be bad for the country and further inflame partisan divisions.

Arguments in the Senate trial will begin the week of Feb. 8, and the case against Trump, the first former president to face impeachment trial, will test a political party still sorting itself out for the post-Trump era. Republican senators are balancing the demands of deep-pocketed

donors who are distancing themselves from Trump and voters who demand loyalty to him. One Republican, Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, announced Monday he would not seek reelection in 2022 citing the polarized political atmosphere.

For Democrats the tone, tenor and length of the upcoming trial, so early in Biden's presidency, poses its own challenge, forcing them to strike a balance between their vow to hold Trump accountable and their eagerness to deliver on the new administration's priorities following their sweep of control of the House, Senate and White House.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Republicans appear more eager to argue over trial process than the substance of the impeachment case against Trump, perhaps to avoid casting judgment on the former president's "role in fomenting the despicable attack" on the Capitol. He said there's only one question "senators of both parties will have to answer before God and their own conscience: Is former President Trump guilty of inciting an insurrection against the United States?"

On Monday, it was learned that Chief Justice John Roberts is not expected to preside at the trial, as he

did during Trump's first impeachment, potentially affecting the gravitas of the proceedings. The shift is said to be in keeping with protocol because Trump is no longer in office.

Instead, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who serves in the largely ceremonial role of Senate president pro-tempore, is set to preside.

Leahy told reporters at the Capitol his role will be "making sure that procedures are followed," not presenting the case. He said he is certain that with his many decades in the Senate he is seen by colleagues as an impartial arbiter.

Leaders in both parties agreed to a short delay in the proceedings that serves their political and practical interests, even as National Guard troops remain at the Capitol amid security threats on lawmakers ahead of the trial.

The start date gives Trump's new legal team time to prepare its case, while also providing more than a month's distance from the passions of the bloody riot. For the Democratic-led Senate, the intervening weeks provide prime time to confirm some of Biden's key Cabinet nominees.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., questioned how his colleagues who were in the Capitol that day could see the insurrection as anything other than a "stunning violation" of the nation's history of peaceful transfers of power. □

Watchdog probes if DOJ officials tried to overturn election

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department's inspector general is launching an investigation to examine whether any former or current department officials "engaged in an improper attempt" to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Inspector General Michael Horowitz said Monday that the investigation will investigate allegations concerning the conduct of former and current Justice Depart-

ment officials but will not extend to other government officials. The Justice Department watchdog investigation follows a report in The New York Times that a former assistant attorney general, Jeffrey Clark, had been discussing a plan with then-President Donald Trump to oust the acting attorney general and try to challenge the results of the 2020 race by falsely saying there had been widespread election fraud.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer demand-

ed the inspector general launch a probe "into this attempted sedition." The watchdog's probe is part of a growing number of efforts underway to investigate the attempts by Trump and his allies to subvert the election results. The moves culminated in a deadly Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and a second impeachment of Trump, this time for inciting an insurrection. Also on Monday, the voting machine company Dominion Systems filed a defamation suit against Trump's person-



In this Dec. 18, 2019, file photo, Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

al attorney Rudy Giuliani for his repeatedly false claims about widespread voting fraud in the election. □

Storm threatens Midwest with heavy snow, travel disruptions

By JOSH FUNK

Associated Press

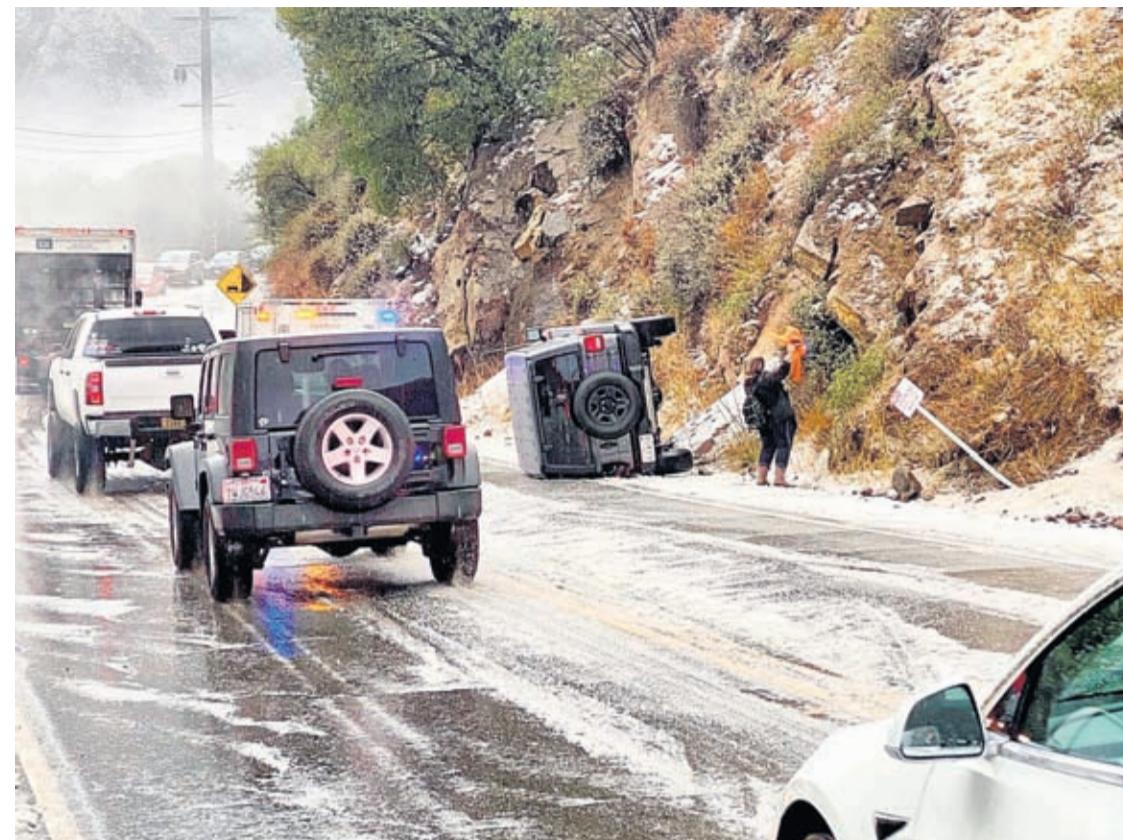
OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A major winter storm threatened to blanket parts of the middle of the country with more than a foot of snow Monday, promising to disrupt travel and even forcing the closure of some coronavirus testing sites.

The National Weather Service forecast that the snow could stretch from central Kansas northeast to Chicago and southern Michigan. Some of the heaviest snow was expected in southeast Nebraska and western Iowa, which was forecast to receive at least 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow.

Several coronavirus testing sites in Nebraska and Iowa planned to close early Monday because of the snow. More than 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow had already fallen in parts of eastern Nebraska by midday.

National Weather Service meteorologist Taylor Nicolaisen said 10 to 15 inches (25 to 38 centimeters) of snow is likely between Lincoln, Nebraska, and Des Moines, Iowa, and that it has been at least 15 years since that area received more than a foot of snow in a single storm.

"This is a historic snow," said



In this Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, photo provided by the California Highway Patrol-West Valley, authorities work the scene of an accident after a hail storm on Malibu Canyon Road in Malibu, Calif.

Nicolaisen, who is based near Omaha, Nebraska. Many schools and businesses closed Monday as the storm moved across the region. In western Iowa, Missouri Valley Superintendent Brent Hoesing reworked the lyrics of the 1970s hit "I Will Survive" to tell students in his district to "So Stay Inside."

Officials urged drivers to stay off the roads during

the storm, especially during the heaviest snowfall in the afternoon and evening. Nebraska State Patrol troopers had helped at least 60 drivers who got stuck or slid off the road by midday Monday.

"Do not travel unless it's absolutely necessary," said Nebraska State Patrol Col. John Bolduc.

Elsewhere in the U.S., a storm moving across the

Southwest on Monday and Tuesday was forecast to bring gusty winds and snowfall, the weather service said. Over the weekend, more than a foot of snow fell in Southern California's mountains ahead of what was forecast to be a stronger storm.

Authorities urged drivers on Sunday to bring their tire chains to the San Gabriel and San Bernardino moun-

Associated Press

tains east of Los Angeles after 10 inches of snow fell in Mount Baldy and up to 18 inches (46 centimeters) were recorded at the Mountain High ski resort in Wrightwood.

It was a dramatic shift from a week ago, when parts of the Southern California region saw temperatures soar to the 90s. On Sunday, highs were in the 50s.

The California Highway Patrol closed Interstate 5 to traffic Monday in the Tejon Pass, which rises to an elevation of more than 4,100 feet (1,250 meters) through mountains between Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley. Across southern Nevada, light rain and snow at higher elevations was reported Monday.

Forecasters at the Sacramento-area National Weather Service office predict an abundance of snow in the Sierra Nevada between late Tuesday and Friday that may make travel through the mountains difficult.

Flash flood watches were in effect for areas north and south of San Francisco Bay, where the National Weather Service cited "high confidence that thresholds for debris flows will be met" in many of last year's wildfire burn scars. □

Teen held in Indiana killings of 5, including pregnant woman



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department work the scene Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021 in Indianapolis where five people, including a pregnant woman, were shot to death early Sunday inside an Indianapolis home.

By RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis police arrested a 17-year-old boy Monday in the killings of five people, including a pregnant woman, who were shot to death inside a home in what the city's mayor called a "dev-

astating act of violence." The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department said in a statement that the name of the suspect in Sunday's killings was "not being released at this time since the suspect is a juvenile." No one else was believed to be involved, police said.

Police said Sunday that the fatal shootings were discovered by police who had been called about 4 a.m. Sunday to investigate reports of a person shot on the city's near northeast side and first found a juvenile male with gunshot wounds. As officers were investigating, police received information about 4:40 a.m. that led them to a nearby home, where they found multiple adults dead inside from apparent gunshot wounds, Sgt. Shane Foley said Sunday.

IMPD spokeswoman Aliya Wishner said Monday that the suspect in custody is a 17-year-old boy who is not the same juvenile male who was found wounded Sunday before the victims' bodies were discovered. Michael Leffler, a spokeswoman for Prosecutor Ryan Mears, said in response to a request for comment on what charges the suspect might face, and if he would be waived into adult court, that the office "can only confirm what IMPD has already released at this time." Police Chief Randal Taylor said Monday in a statement announcing the arrest that he was asking the community to pray for the recovery of the juvenile male found wounded Sunday, saying that his "life has been forever changed."

Foley said Sunday that police believe that juvenile, whose age has not been released, was wounded in the same shootings that left

the five others dead, along with the unborn child.

Kezzie Childs, 42, Raymond Childs, 42, Elijah Childs, 18, Rita Childs, 13, and Kiara Hawkins, 19, and the unborn child of Hawkins were pronounced dead after being found in the home, the Marion County Coroner's office said. Hawkins was first taken to an area hospital, but both she and her unborn male child died despite life-saving efforts, authorities said.

Police did not release details Sunday of the relationships between the shooting victims, and Wishner said Monday afternoon that information was not yet available because the case is currently under seal in a Marion County court. □

Dutch police use tear gas, water cannon amid rioting

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Groups of youths confronted police in Dutch towns and cities Monday night, defying the country's coronavirus curfew and throwing fireworks. Police in the port city of Rotterdam used a water cannon and tear gas in an attempt to disperse a crowd of rioters. Police and local media reported trouble in the capital, Amsterdam, where at least eight people were arrested, the central city of Amersfoort, where a car was turned on its side, and other towns before and after the 9 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. curfew began.

It was the second night of unrest in towns and cities across the Netherlands that initially grew out of calls to protest against the country's tough lockdown, but degenerated into vandalism by crowds whipped up by messages swirling on social media.

Rotterdam police said youths took to the streets "seeking a confrontation with police." Riot officers attempted to break up the violence and made a number of arrests, before firing tear gas. Police warned people to stay away from the area. National broadcaster NOS showed video of police using a water cannon and reported that some shops had been looted.



In this image made from video, a burnt out COVID-19 testing center is seen after being set on fire in Urk, 80 kilometers (50 miles) northeast of Amsterdam, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021.

Associated Press

In the southern town of Geleen, police tweeted that youths in the downtown area were throwing fireworks. Riot police charged at protesters in The Hague.

Dutch media reported calls on social media for further violent protests even as the country struggles to contain new coronavirus infections, hospitalizations and deaths.

Police in the southern town of Goes and the North Holland province said they detained people on suspicion of using social media to call for rioting.

"It is unacceptable," Prime Minister Mark Rutte said earlier Monday of rioting Sunday. "This has nothing

to do with protesting, this is criminal violence and that's how we'll treat it."

Worst hit Sunday was the southern city of Eindhoven, where police clashed with hundreds of rioters who torched a car, threw rocks and fireworks at officers, smashed windows and looted a supermarket at its railway station.

"My city is crying, and so am I," Eindhoven Mayor John Jorritsma told reporters Sunday night in an emotional impromptu news conference. He called the rioters "the scum of the earth" and added "I am afraid that if we continue down this path, we're on our way to civil war."

Amsterdam police arrested

190 people amid rioting at a banned demonstration Sunday.

The rioting coincided with the first weekend of a new national coronavirus curfew, but mayors stressed that the violence wasn't the work of citizens concerned about their civil liberties.

"These demonstrations are being hijacked by people who only want one thing and that is to riot," Hubert Bruls, mayor of the city of Nijmegen and leader of a group of local security organizations, told news talk show Op1.

Nijmegen was one of a number of towns and cities that issued emergency decrees giving police ex-

tra powers to keep people away from certain locations amid reports of possible riots there. At least one store in Nijmegen was shown on Dutch television being boarded up as a precaution.

Bruls, who chaired a meeting of security officials Monday, said despite the violence, he didn't advocate further limiting demonstrations.

You should be very reluctant to limit the right to demonstrate," he said, noting that the rioting Sunday happened at protests that already had been banned by local authorities.

Police in Eindhoven said Monday they have detained 62 suspects and have launched a large-scale investigation to identify and arrest more. One woman not involved in the rioting in Eindhoven was injured by a police horse.

Local residents went to the scene of the rioting Monday morning to help in the cleanup operation.

On Sunday, rioters threw rocks at the windows of a hospital in the eastern city of Enschede. On Saturday night, youths in the fishing village of Urk torched a coronavirus testing facility. Police in the southern province of Limburg said military police were sent as reinforcements to two cities.

The Netherlands has seen over 13,600 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic. □

EU wants full recognition for UK envoy in post-Brexit spat

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union called Monday on the United Kingdom to grant the EU's first-ever ambassador to the country full diplomatic status after the government in London declined to accord him those rights, but gave no clear signal that it would take retaliatory action.

In a post-Brexit spat, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government is refusing to grant full diplomatic status to Joao Vale de Almeida, the 27-nation EU's envoy to the U.K., which left the bloc last year. London says the EU is an organization, rather

than a country.

Vale de Almeida would be entitled to immunity from taxation and prosecution, among other rights accord to ambassadors, under the Vienna Convention.

"We will not accept that the United Kingdom will be the only country in the world that doesn't recognize the delegation of the European Union (as) the equivalent of a diplomatic mission," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said after chairing a meeting of the bloc's foreign ministers. Borrell said that EU delegations are recognized by 143

countries "without a single exception."

"It's not a friendly signal; the first one the United Kingdom has sent to us immediately after leaving the European Union. If things have to continue like this there's no good prospects," said Borrell, almost exactly a year after Britain officially left the EU in an acrimonious divorce.

"We do not ask for something new, or we don't ask for special treatment," he said. Borrell gave no indication of what the EU might do if the problem isn't resolved soon.



A general view of Europe House the official Delegation of the European Union office to the United Kingdom in London, Friday, Jan. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

and immunities necessary to enable them to carry out their work in the U.K. effectively." □

India, China soldiers brawl again along disputed frontier

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN and SHEIKH SAALIQ
Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Indian and Chinese soldiers brawled last week along the countries' disputed border, Indian officials said Monday, as a months-long standoff between the nuclear-armed rivals continued.

The clash in the Naku La area of Sikkim came four days before the countries held a ninth round of talks on Sunday on ending tensions in another disputed border area in the remote Ladakh region.

The Indian army described the clash at Naku La as "a minor face off" and said it "was resolved by local commanders as per established protocols."

An army statement did not provide any other details, but asked media "to refrain

from overplaying or exaggerating" the incident. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said he did not have information to provide on the incident but urged India "not to take any unilateral action that may further complicate or exacerbate the border tension."

Since a deadly clash last year, soldiers from the two sides have brawled occasionally and fired shots for the first time in decades, breaking a longstanding agreement not to use firearms during border confrontations.

Two Indian security officials said at least 18 Chinese soldiers tried to cross into Indian-claimed territory at Naku La last Wednesday night and were blocked by Indian soldiers, leading to clashes with sticks and stones. The officials,

who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue and in keeping with government regulations, said soldiers on both sides were carrying firearms but did not use them.

The two officials said over a dozen Indian soldiers and at least eight Chinese soldiers received minor injuries.

There was no independent confirmation of the incident.

Both sides rushed more soldiers to the area in an "aggressive deployment" that swelled the number of personnel to hundreds, the officials said.

The leader of India's main opposition Congress party, Rahul Gandhi, accused China of "expanding its occupation into Indian territory" and questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

silence. Modi "hasn't said the word 'China' for months," Gandhi said in a tweet Monday. "Maybe he can start by saying the word 'China.'"

India and China have been locked in a tense military standoff since May high in the Karakoram mountains, with troops settling in for the harsh winter. Both sides have mobilized tens of thousands of soldiers, artillery and fighter aircraft along the fiercely contested border known as the Line of Actual Control, or LAC, that separates Chinese and Indian-held territories from Ladakh in the west to India's eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims in its entirety.

The frontier is broken in parts where the Himalayan nations of Nepal and Bhutan border China, and

where Sikkim, the site of the latest brawl, is sandwiched. The LAC divides areas of physical control rather than territorial claims. Despite more than three dozen rounds of talks over the years and multiple meetings between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, they are nowhere near settling the dispute. The standoff began last May with a fierce brawl, and exploded into hand-to-hand combat with clubs, stones and fists on June 15 that left 20 Indian soldiers dead. China is believed to also have had casualties, but has not given any details.

Indian and Chinese army commanders met for the ninth round of talks after a gap of 2 1/2 months in Ladakh on Sunday but neither side released any details of the outcome. □

9 workers found dead in China gold mine explosions



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, rescuers carry a miner who was trapped in a mine to an ambulance in Qixia City in east China's Shandong Province, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021.

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese rescuers have found the bodies of nine workers killed in explosions at a gold mine, raising the death toll to 10, officials said Monday. Eleven others were rescued a day earlier after being trapped underground for

two weeks at the mine in Shandong province. One person was still missing. The cause of the accident at the mine, which was under construction, is under investigation. The explosions on Jan. 10 released 70 tons of debris that blocked

a shaft, disabling elevators and trapping workers underground. Rescuers drilled parallel shafts to send down food and nutrients and eventually bring up the survivors on Sunday. Chen Yumin, director of the rescue group, told re-

porters that the nine workers recovered Monday died more than 400 meters (1,320 feet) below ground. He said there had been two explosions about an hour and a half apart, with the second explosion causing more damage.

Associated Press

Search efforts will continue for the remaining miner until he is found, said Chen Fei, the mayor of Yantai city, where the mine is located.

"Until this worker is found, we will not give up," he said at a news conference.

Chen and other officials involved in the rescue effort held a moment of silence for the victims, bowing their heads.

"Our hearts are deeply grieved. We express our profound condolences, and we express deep sympathies to the families of the victim," he said.

Authorities have detained mine managers for delaying reporting the accident. Such protracted and expensive rescue efforts are relatively new in China's mining industry, which used to average 5,000 deaths per year.

Increased supervision has improved safety, although demand for coal and precious metals continues to prompt corner-cutting. A new crackdown was ordered after two accidents in mountainous southwestern Chongqing last year killed 39 miners. □



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Former Colombian guerrillas shed their decades-old name

By MANUEL RUEDA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

The demobilized guerrilla group known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia has changed the name of its political party in a bid to perform better with voters in next year's congressional elections.

The FARC's political party will now be known as Comunes, which translates roughly to commoners or commons. Party leaders said the name was selected unanimously during the party's second national conference held last week. "We agreed that the FARC name generates resistance in some sectors of society" the party said in a statement. "That is why we decided on a new name ... that gathers the dreams and aspirations of our

founders."

As part of a 2016 peace deal with Colombia's government that ended five decades of war, the FARC was allowed to register a political party and was also given 10 guaranteed seats in Congress for eight years. The organization chose to keep its wartime Spanish-language acronym for its political party, though it changed its official name to the Common Alternative Revolutionary Force. But it had poor results.

The FARC's presidential candidate in 2018 retired from the race early after suffering a heart attack, while in congressional elections the same year, the group managed only 32,000 votes or about 0.2% of the total amount.

The group has also suffered deep divisions, with some of its members heading to

mainstream leftist movements while others have given up on the peace process altogether and returned to arms.

The former guerrillas have also faced growing violence against members of their organization. According to the United Nations, more than 250 former fighters have been murdered since the 2016 peace deal was signed.

Political analysts said the new name might help to distance the group from its violent past and from dissident groups that continue to use the FARC acronym. But Sergio Guzman, a Colombian political analyst, said the name change was little more than a "facelift." "There is nothing in recent announcements made by the FARC that suggest they are now in tune with what voters want" Guzman said.

He said the group is still pushing for economic policies like agricultural self-subsistence that are out of step with Colombia's economic model, and that it has not complied with human rights commitments made during the peace deal.

"They have still not compensated war victims, they still haven't admitted that they recruited children," Guzman said. "They have been stubborn for the past four years, and a simple name change does not suggest that the public will find their public policies appealing."

The 2022 election will be the last contest in which the former rebels will have guaranteed seats in Congress. If the party doesn't expand its electoral base,

Guzman said, it risks losing representation and becoming obsolete.

Comunes leaders said that in the 2022 campaign they will talk about the need to speed up implementation of Colombia's peace deal and to improve health care access for Colombians.

The Comunes name, party leaders said, draws inspiration from a group of Colombian peasants who rebelled against the Spanish empire in the 18th century, and called themselves the "comuneros."

Party leaders also said that the name Comunes had been used by peasants who were members of the communist party and formed guerrilla groups in the 1950s to defend themselves from incursions by the Colombian military. □

Judge orders Uganda's Bobi Wine freed from house arrest

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) —

A judge ruled on Monday that Ugandan security forces cannot detain presidential challenger Bobi Wine inside his home, rebuking authorities for holding the candidate under house arrest following a disputed election.

Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, has been unable to leave his home since Jan. 14, when Ugandans voted in an election in which the singer-turned-politician was the main challenger to President Yoweri Museveni. Ugandan authorities have said Wine can only leave his home on the outskirts of the capital, Kampala, under military escort because



In this Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021 file photo, Uganda's leading opposition challenger Bobi Wine fills his ballot before voting in Kampala, Uganda.

they fear his presence in public could incite rioting. But the judge said in his ruling that Wine's home is not a proper detention facility and noted that authorities should criminally charge him if he threatens public order.

The U.S. Embassy in a Twitter post said the judge's rul-

ing "underscores the role of an impartial judiciary," adding that Washington "calls on security forces to honor the decision."

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said: "It's very important that the security forces do show restraint and also obey ... the order." □

Associated Press

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Travellers' Choice 2020



PALM BEACH —A true once-in-a-lifetime experience is coming up. The stage: an Aruban cunucu house creating a magical ambience. The play: The Secret Garden; a 6-course culinary voyage by a Michelin-trained chef from Belgium, Griet Vanbrabant. The content: 100% local products from local farmers tuned into the most amazing dishes; leaving you in an enchanted state and giving you a memory that will last a lifetime. Be sure to reserve this opportunity before others do. This production is presented to you by Papillon Restaurant.

Sometimes combining the best of the best is a matter of all things falling into place. Every Wednesday of January, 2021, from 7p.m. to 10p.m. you are welcomed to enter a world where food is a passion. Papillon Restaurant presents their guest chef, Vanbrabant - who will be on the

Papillon Restaurant presents: Chef's Garden, the butterfly effect of magnificent local food



island for a limited time period - and with The Secret Garden menu being a fresh concept on the island, we're sure you will fall completely in love with this. Make sure you are part of this week's LAST EDITION.

A bit about Griet

Vanbrabant is a passionate chef with over 15 years of experience in fine dining menu development, culinary staff management, food preparation and creative recipe design. She is educated in classic French Cuisine and Modern Gastronomy teachings throughout her international career in Michelin star and the World's 50 Best restaurants such as El Bulli and Comerc 24 in Barcelona, Pujol in Mexico City, Rockpool in Australia. Let her entice you with her succulent, Aruban recipes like they've never tasted before.

The menu is carefully done with local products, fresh and perfectly matched with a selection of wines by local sommeliers.



Diet options are available; please inform them when you make your reservation.

The Secret Garden & Papillon

This is an in-home dining experience where you will feel you are part of an exclusive setting. Private culinary events are the owner's specialty and their lush, tropical garden is also inviting for you to relax and indulge in hours of authentic culinarian delights, a heaven to foodies. For more than a decade, Papillon restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. They know how to thrill and in collaboration with The Secret Garden we can only expect phenomenal.

Papillon
RESTAURANT

For reservations:

Call: +297 586 5400

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Email: info@papillonaruba.com



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Island inspiration

ORANJESTAD — Nature has always been a source of creativity and inspiration for philosophers, artists and scientists. From early rock art to realism, impressionism, classicism or the avant-garde, everything that surrounds us in nature will never cease to amaze us. There is always something that inspires us with new ideas to create our work of art.

Etnia Nativa creates ties with the resources of nature through its artistic productions and reflects on the future of the planet as the harmful impact of human beings on earth. Our works invite to think and raise awareness about the incidence of climate change, about the conservation and the necessary care of the environment. It seeks to reinforce local identity while preserving Aruba's heritage and culture.

Nature is our greatest resource and source of inspiration;



most of our works are made of noble material and can return to the earth without harming it.
We work clay with ancient, pre-Colum-

Episode LXXXIX - 89



bian techniques, in the same way that other cultures worked their clay pieces in the past. Our works show connection and harmony with the natural cycle.

Continued on Page 9

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Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

**Island inspiration**

Continued from Page 8

The elaboration of each piece of clay has a creative itinerary that begins from the moment we go to harvest the clay, selecting the material for its plasticity and according to its color and texture. Afterwards, the clay must be crushed, let it soak for a few days, strain it and let it rest in a canvas bag to dry until it reaches the right consistency to knead, at that moment some of our native creations come to life.

The need to learn sustainable ways of co-habiting the earth is also the engine of our creations; communal works like "Breba pa unda?", a cactus with each of its four arms pointing to one of the four cardinal directions. A recycled garden hose represents the green however plastic nature taking over the island. Black, burnt Styrofoam for nature V.S. development, nature lost. The other two arms, the Aruba flag in blue and with the rusty red and



yellow branch of native Aruba's indigenous heritage symbols. Etnia Nativa is active in community consciousness inspiring art presentations. We are sharing awareness towards a healthy relationship with islands natural environment, it's sur-

rounding ocean and once inner eco guru. We define art works not only through why it was created, or what influenced the artist to create but by analyzing what first comes to your mind.

All materials that we apply are from rescue operations and transformed in our final works. An old Tibetan text says "Help nature and work with her and she will consider you one of her own and give you obedience." □

To get to know a little more regarding Aruba's and its cultural origins we highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session.

A mind opening revelation and entertaining island experience.

Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com, our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.

**Aruba to me....**

ORANJESTAD — You are back or you will be back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received this great picture from **Allison Braswell**. She says:

"Aruba to me is a special place that makes me so happy. This trip I got to meet these beautiful exotic bullies and their wonderful owner and we made some new friends. See you soon Aruba.

Thank you for always welcoming us." □



From a reader: Urge for adequate plan Aruba on local Covid testing

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today is a free newspaper distributed six days a week and an important platform for our tourists. The main part of our interaction with our appreciated visitors is happy news, they share their love for the island with us and we feature them. Now and then we also receive important concerns of our visitors like Evan Brett's letter below, addressed to our authorities. Thank you Brett for sharing your preoccupations with us.

"Here is some unfortunate news. Unless the Aruban government can provide some assurances about their planning for COVID testing in advance of the upcoming US restrictions later next week, tourists will be forced to cancel planned trips.

Both the Aruban Tourism Authority and the Marriott Surf Club continually provide the 3 testing locations for tourists...only for us to find out no appointments are available for Feb and March, including President's Day...Arguably, the highest demand week between Christmas and Easter. We normally travel to Aruba with about 12 families...and of our group, my family is the last hold-out. We've not cancelled, yet...but that decision will likely be made this week...as American's cancel in favor of the safer option, Florida.

I've personally been emailing support@aruba.com and management of the Marriott Timeshares, but get zero in response

other than being referred to the same 3 locations. Can you possibly imagine what it would look like on any given day when thousands of Americans need to get tested on the same day? There are not enough hours in a day to administer and process Covid tests at a lab. And they are charging up to \$125 for it, or \$500 to a family of 4. That's enough to lose the tourism revenue.

In Mexico, hotels are providing free, at hotel testing with a guaranteed appointment assigned upon check-in, so you know exactly when your test is, and you needn't leave the hotel grounds for testing. Aruba's plan is to have all tourist descend on the same 3, already sold out locations is not realistic. Expecting tourists to rely on taxis and buses to opt for the hospital will only increase the risk of infection, and cause more stress on the quarantine scenario - which is an entirely different problem lying in wait altogether.

What I fear for Aruba, is stranded tourists and hoards of tourists on monumental lines lighting up social media, putting Aruba squarely back in the news again.

For those of us who are/were planning to bring our tourism dollars to Aruba on President's Week, we are running out of time to know that you have an adequate plan for this, or the merchants, hotels and restaurants are all squarely at risk.

Regards,
Evan Brett"□

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From our tourism authorities: Testing tourists on the return to the USA, post vacation. It's easy!

ORANJESTAD — In response of the letter we received from Evan Brett regarding the post vacation testing Aruba's tourism authorities find it important to explain your options when vacationing on Aruba.

In accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Government of the United States of America it is required that all returning travelers present a negative COVID-19 test result prior boarding. This will become effective as of January 26, 2021. In the Aruban Government's continuing efforts to provide the safest, seamless and coordinated travel experience possible, the Aruba Tourism Authority would like to inform you that all necessary facilities and procedures are in place for any visitor needing to take a PCR test while in Aruba as a requirement for re-entry to their country/state of origin.

Aruba has a modern infrastructure, state-of-the-art hospital and well-equipped medical facilities. Three (3) certified laboratories in Aruba will offer the PCR testing service to outbound travelers. The facilities have ample test kits available and testing is priced between \$75 and \$126. Visitors will find appointments easy to book and the turnaround time for test results is within 24 hours. Between the facilities, visitors will have the option to make an appointment, walk in, or have the test done at their place of stay. It is also very important to note that the Aruba Visitors Insurance will cover all costs related to a positive Covid-19 results based on this requirement such as quarantine, isolation and transportation. Cost. The insurance however does not cover the test upon this new requirement. These are the 3 certified labs where you can conduct your test:

- MedLab: www.covidaruba.com – Phone (+297) 586-1600 – Cell/WhatsApp (+297) 597-5544
- 1. Testing is available at visi-

tors accommodation (hotel/ home). Appointment recommended for this service. This service will be free of charge if booked online in advance on www.covidaruba.com. An extra fee will be applied if the appointment is made on the same day 2. Walk-in service accepted at our physical location – No appointment necessary Price for the test is \$126. Conduct the test before 11am for same day results. • MedCare and Laboratorio di Servicio are formally approved to do both antigen and PCR testing. They will be doing this at several of the larger branded hotels/resorts. Most hotels/resorts made similar arrangement, tourists/incoming passengers should know that they have options when on island.

General information:
MedCare Clinic is a high-quality, high-service medical clinic specialized in care for tourists with testing locations conveniently located at several of the major brand hotels. They are open seven days a week; please check opening times with your hotel. They collaborate with Laboratorio di Servicio which is an ISO-15189:2012 medical laboratory fully accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317) and they guarantee reliable test results within 24 hours. For departure testing MedCare Clinic/Laboratorio di Servicio offer Antigen and PCR testing:

1. High service testing location at your hotel:
Antigen testing US\$50
PCR test US\$125
An In-room (high privacy) service is also possible at an extra charge.
2. Drive thru and walk in facility at their location at The Mill (J.E. Irausquin Blvd 330, Noord), at the Courtyard by Marriott
Antigen test US\$50
PCR Test US\$125
For special group arrangements or appointments please mail to info@medcare.aw or call +297 280 0630.□

Budweiser joins Coke, Pepsi brands in sitting out Super Bowl

By MAE ANDERSON and
DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — For the first time since 1983, when Anheuser-Busch used all of its ad time to introduce a beer called Bud Light, the beer giant isn't advertising its iconic Budweiser brand during the Super Bowl. Instead, it's donating the money it would have spent on the ad to coronavirus vaccination awareness efforts.

Anheuser-Busch still has four minutes of advertising during the game for its other brands including Bud Light, Bud Light Seltzer Lemonade, Michelob Ultra and Michelob Ultra Organic Seltzer. Those are some of its hottest sellers, particularly among younger viewers. But the decision to not do an anthemic Budweiser ad — which over nearly four decades has made American icons of frogs chirping "Budweiser," guys screaming "Whassup!", and of course the Budweiser Clydesdales — showcases the caution with which some advertisers are approaching the first COVID-era Super Bowl.

"We have a pandemic that is casting a pall over just about everything," said Paul Argenti, Dartmouth College professor of corporate communication. "It's hard to feel the exuberance and excitement people normally would."



This image provided by Budweiser shows two health care workers getting vaccinated in an advertisement Budweiser is running before the Super Bowl.

The Anheuser-Busch move follows a similar announcement from PepsiCo., which won't be advertising its biggest brand, Pepsi, in order to focus on its sponsorship of the the halftime show. (It will be advertising Mountain Dew and Frito-Lay products). Other veteran Super Bowl advertisers like Coke, Audi and Avocados from Mexico are sitting out the game altogether. These big-brand absences are just one more way Super Bowl LV will look very different from previous years. Attendance at the game will be limited to 22,000 people, about a third of the more than 65,890 capacity of Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida. And Super Bowl parties will be more likely to be smaller affairs with pods or families.

"I think the advertisers are correctly picking up on this being a riskier year for the Super Bowl," said Charles Taylor, marketing professor at Villanova University. "With COVID and economic uncertainty, people aren't necessarily in the best mood to begin with. There's a risk associated with messages that are potentially too light. ... At the same time, there's risk associated with doing anything too somber."

The pandemic has cut sharply into sales for many Super Bowl advertisers. With pricey ads costing an estimated \$5.5 million for 30 seconds during the Feb. 7 broadcast on CBS, some may have decided it's not worth it this year. Coca-Cola, for example, has been hard hit since half of its sales

come from stadiums, movie theaters and other usually crowded places that have been closed during the pandemic. It announced layoffs in December, and said it wouldn't advertise this year to ensure it's "investing in the right resources during these unprecedented times."

To fill the void, newcomers like the TikTok rival Triller, online freelance marketplace Fiverr and online car seller Vroom are rushing in to take their place. Returning brands include M&M's, Pringles, Toyota and others. Companies that are running ads this year face a number of challenges. Super Bowl ads are usually developed months in advance and shot in the fall, meaning that ads airing in two weeks were shot under

costly pandemic conditions and without any idea how the presidential election would turn out. That further complicates the already delicate process of striking a tone that acknowledges what's happening with the world, managing to either entertain or tug at viewer heartstrings, and finding a way to tie it all back to their brand.

"It's a tough year to do an ad," Argenti said. "It will be a good year for creative companies who figure out how to thread that needle."

Monica Rustgi, Budweiser's vice president of marketing, said the brand is still calculating how much it will spend on vaccine awareness. But she said it will be a "multi-million dollar" commitment that includes donating airtime throughout this year for the nonprofit the Ad Council and COVID Collaborative's COVID-19 Vaccine Education Initiative.

Budweiser will still have a marketing presence around the big game. Starting Monday, the brand will air an ad that celebrates resilience during the pandemic, including a socially distanced birthday parade and athletes in Black Lives Matter jerseys. The ad, narrated by actress and director Rashida Jones, ends with health care workers getting vaccinated and talks about Budweiser's donation. □

Job losses from virus 4 times as bad as '09 financial crisis

GENEVA (AP) — Four times as many jobs were lost last year due to the coronavirus pandemic as during the worst part of the global financial crisis in 2009, a U.N. report said Monday. The International Labor Organization estimated that the restrictions on businesses and public life destroyed 8.8% of all work hours around the world last year. That is equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs — quadruple the impact of the financial crisis over a decade ago. "This has been the most

severe crisis for the world of work since The Great Depression of the 1930s. Its impact is far greater than that of the global financial crisis of 2009," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. The fallout was almost equally split between reduced work hours and "unprecedented" job losses, he said.

The United Nations agency noted that most people who lost work stopped looking for a job altogether, likely because of restrictions on businesses that hire in big numbers like res-

taurants, bars, stores, hotels and other services that depend on face-to-face interactions.

The drop in work translates to a loss of \$3.7 trillion in income globally — what Ryder called an "extraordinary figure" — with women and young people taking the biggest hits.

The ILO report expects a bounce back in jobs in the second half of the year. But that depends on a reduction in coronavirus infections and the rollout of vaccines. Currently, infections are rising or re-



People wearing protective masks to help curb the spread of the coronavirus walk along pedestrian crossings Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 in Tokyo.

Associated Press

main stubbornly high in many countries and vaccine distribution is still slow overall. □

Kerry: U.S. will make up for 4 years of lost action on climate



Wind turbines are seen on a dike near Urk, Netherlands, Friday, Jan. 22, 2021.

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands
(AP) — The world must take

decisive action to build resilience to the devastating effects of climate change, U.S. climate envoy John Kerry told a global virtual summit Monday, pledging that President Joe Biden's new administration would play its role.

In a video message to the Climate Adaptation Summit hosted by the Dutch government, Kerry said, "We're proud to be back (in the Paris climate accord). We come back, I want you to know, with humility, for the absence of the last four years, and we'll do everything in our power to make up for it." Biden, in his first hours in office last week, signed an executive order returning the United States to the historic 2015 Paris climate accord, reversing its with-

drawal by Donald Trump, who ridiculed the science of human-caused climate change.

Kerry said the Biden administration is working to announce its own more ambitious target for cutting emissions soon.

Outlining the new administration's plans to promote climate adaptation, Kerry said it will "leverage U.S. innovation and climate data" to better understand and manage climate-related risks; increase the flow of finance to adaptation and resilience initiatives, work with institutions to improve resilience planning and promote greater collaboration.

Kerry was among world leaders who converged — virtually — on the Netherlands for the summit seeking to galvanize more action and funding to adapt the planet and vulnerable communities to the effects

of climate change. The meeting comes after a year in which the Earth hit or neared record hot temperature levels.

"We saw the heat waves. We saw the fires. We saw the (melting) Arctic," top NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt said earlier this month about the effects of the warming.

"Adaptation is not an option, it is an urgent task for this generation and those to come," Chile President Sebastián Piñera said in a video message.

The Netherlands-based Global Center on Adaptation last week called on governments and financiers around the globe to include funding for adaptation projects in their COVID-19 recovery spending. World Bank President David Malpass said the bank's financing for adaptation measures rose from 40% of its climate finance in 2016 to more than over 50% in 2020, "and we've committed to making it half of our total climate finance for the next five years."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres highlighted the necessity of the funding, saying that a recent U.N. report calculated adaptation costs in developing countries to be around

\$70 billion dollars annually and that they are likely to rise to \$280-500 billion in 2050.

"We've reached the point where it is an absolute fact that it's cheaper to invest in preventing damage, or minimizing it at least, than cleaning up," Kerry said. Dutch Overseas Trade and Development Cooperation Minister Sigrid Kaag got the ball rolling by announcing that the summit's host nation will pump 20 million euros (\$24 million) into an adaptation fund for the world's least-developed

Associated Press

nations and 100 million euros (\$121 million) into a program for sustainable farming in Africa's Sahel region. Kaag said by using new and existing adaptation techniques, "we can build a climate-proof future together and promote sustainable economic growth in all parts of Africa."

President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon warned that if climate change is not reined in it could create "hundreds of millions of climate refugees in Africa by the middle of the century." He said Africa "has no choice but to adapt and chart a climate resilient future."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson used Monday's summit to announce a new Adaptation Action Coalition that brings together more than 120 countries along with the European Union and nearly 90 other organizations to double down on climate adaptation efforts.

The Dutch, for example, have centuries of experience in adapting to the threat of water from major rivers that run through the low-lying nation to its long North Sea coast.

It shares and exports the know-how around the world to places like flood-prone Mozambique, where Dutch experts have helped strengthen drainage systems and coastal defenses. □

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9	7		5		4	
		9				3
8		4	6			9
					1	7
3	2			8		6
	5	4				
7			1	3		5
5				2		
	9		7		2	8

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Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

How to reach us!

The map shows the layout of downtown Aruba, including streets like Weststraat, Scheepstraat, and L.G. Smith Boulevard. It also indicates the location of the Bus terminal and Royal Plaza Mall. The ARUBA TODAY and BONDIA logos are overlaid on the map, with a magnifying glass highlighting them.

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'Baba Yaga' introduces with a virtual reality movie premiere

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Last week Daisy Ridley and Jennifer Hudson went to a movie premiere together. They posed for photos and made remarks from a stage while an audience watched quietly.

Or, more accurately, their avatars did.

The actors were actually on different continents, brought together for a few minutes through virtual reality headsets to walk a red carpet, pose for photos in front of a step and repeat and to speak to a crowd of other avatars on behalf of their short film "Baba Yaga."

It's being called the first ever VR movie premiere. "I truly feel like I went to a premiere," Hudson said later. "But I didn't leave home! I think it's a cool way to do it, especially right now."

She especially liked seeing her team and how much their avatars looked like themselves.

Virtual movie premieres have become standard in Hollywood since the pandemic started. The "events" typically just involve a start



This image released by Baobab Studios shows avatars representing Jennifer Hudson, left, and Daisy Ridley at the VR premiere of their short film "Baba Yaga."

time for the film to broadcast on your home screen and, sometimes, a zoom-style Q&A with talent afterward. But Baobab Studios, the 6-year-old interactive animation studio behind a handful of cinematic VR experiences, decided to push the envelope for "Baba Yaga."

"I really don't think we would have ever thought of this if it wasn't for COVID," said Eric Darnell, the man

behind the "Madagascar" films and co-founder of Baobab. "We usually have our films premiere at festivals."

"Baba Yaga" actually got a real festival premiere too as part of the Venice Film Festival last year. But as it became increasingly clear that there would not be an opportunity stateside, the company started working alongside the XR consultancy firm MESH to pro-

duce the ambitious event, which included designing a rainforest room inspired by the one in the film.

The virtual reality movie premiere is not entirely dissimilar to an actual premiere. There are publicists, filmmakers and actors, things to look at and displays to take selfies with (really). At this particular event, there was also a roped off "restricted" area, although organizers said it was simply

Associated Press

there to designate the end of space and not an exclusive side party.

And not unlike at actual events, sometimes you find yourself without anyone to talk to and just awkwardly wander around eavesdropping. But at a virtual reality premiere you can't even pretend to send text messages or respond to emails. This reporter also had to take off her headset for a few minutes after getting VR dizzy.

Darnell co-wrote and directed the film/experience alongside Mathias Chelebourg. It also features the voices of Kate Winslet and Glen Close. The film and the rainforest room are currently available to experience through Oculus Quest.

Events like this may have been born out of necessity, but they could be the way of the future.

"Even if we did go back to premiering at festivals, I still think this is an amazing way to bring people together and to say let's celebrate this medium by actually having a party inside of it," Darnell said. □

Pompeii's museum comes back to life to display amazing finds



Dionysus bust is displayed at the museum Antiquarium, in Pompeii, southern Italy, Monday, Jan. 25, 2021.

Associated Press

ANDREA ROSA
POMPEII, Italy (AP) — Decades after suffering bombing and earthquake damage, Pompeii's museum has been reborn, showing off exquisite finds from excavations of the ancient Roman city.

Officials of the archeological park of the ruins of the city destroyed in 79 A.D. by the eruption of Mount Ve-

suvius inaugurated the museum on Monday.

Known as the Antiquarium, the museum gives Pompeii a permanent exhibition space. Visitors can see sections of frescoed walls from the sprawling city's unearthed villas, examples of some of the graffiti unearthed by archaeologists as well as household objects ranging from silver

spoons to a bronze food-warmer, items of the everyday life that was snuffed out by the volcanic explosion.

First opened in about 1873, the Antiquarium was damaged by bombing during World War II and again in 1980, when a deadly earthquake rocked the Naples area. Since the quake, the museum had been closed, although it was reopened in 2016 as a space for temporary exhibitions.

Due to Italy's COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, currently only visitors from Italy's Campania region, which includes the Naples area and the Pompeii ruins, can see the museum.

Pompeii is one of Italy's top tourist attractions, and when mass tourism eventually resumes, entrance tickets to the ruins will also include a visit to the Antiquarium.

The re-opening of the museum after so many decades of travail is "a sign of great hope during a very difficult moment," Pompeii's long time director, Massimo Osanna, said. He was referring to the harsh blow that the pandemic's travel restrictions have dealt to tourism, one of Italy's biggest revenue sources. On display in the last room of the museum are poignant casts made from the remains of some of Pompeii's residents who tried to flee but were overcome by blasts of volcanic gases or battered by a rain of lava stones ejected by Vesuvius.

"I find particularly touching the last room, the one dedicated to the eruption, and where on display are the objects deformed by the heat of the eruption, the casts of the victims, the casts of the animals," Osanna said. "Really, one touches with one's hand

the incredible drama that the 79 A.D. eruption was." Large swaths of Pompeii remain to be excavated. While tourism virtually ground to a halt during the pandemic, archaeologists have kept working.

Just a month ago, Osanna revealed the discovery of an ancient fast-food eatery at Pompeii. Completely excavated, the find helped to reveal dishes popular with the citizens of the ancient city who apparently were partial to eating out, including what was on the menu the day that Pompeii was destroyed. □

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6	3	9	5	7	4	2	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★

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Cactus League asks MLB to delay spring training due to COVID

By JAKE SEINER
AP Sports Writer

The Cactus League and Arizona community leaders have asked Major League Baseball to delay the start of spring training due to coronavirus concerns just over three weeks before pitchers and catchers are supposed to report.

The Cactus League made the request in a letter to Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred obtained by The Associated Press on Monday. The letter was co-signed by the mayors of Mesa, Scottsdale, Surprise, Glendale, Goodyear and Peoria, as well as representatives from Phoenix and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

MLB said in a statement that it "will continue to consult with public health authorities, medical experts, and the Players Association whether any schedule modifications to the announced start of Spring Training and the Championship Season should be made in light of the current COVID-19 environment to ensure the safety of the players, coaches, umpires, MLB employees and other game day personnel in a sport that plays every day." Arizona is averaging just under 7,000 new coronavirus cases per day, but the



A young baseball fan tries to get the attention of players as he hopes to get an autograph prior to a spring training baseball game between the Colorado Rockies and the Cincinnati Reds in Scottsdale, Ariz., in this Tuesday, March 10, 2020, file photo.

Associated Press

Cactus League cited data in its letter from the University of Washington's Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation projecting a sharp decline in infections by mid-March, down to as few as 3,072 daily. Spring camps are set to open the week of Feb. 15, with the regular season set to start on April 1.

Despite the roiling case numbers, the NHL's Arizona Coyotes are hosting 3,450 fans for home games in Glendale, while the NBA's Phoenix Suns are playing without fans. High school sports are also still operating. The Cactus League hosts 15 MLB clubs.

In a sign that other teams are moving forward with

preseason plans, the spring training home in Jupiter, Florida, shared by the St. Louis Cardinals and Miami Marlins announced Monday it will begin selling tickets for spring games beginning Feb. 1. Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium said 2021 tickets will be sold in seating pods of two, four or six spaced six feet apart throughout the stadium. Any changes to the major league schedule are subject to agreement with the players' association per terms of their collective bargaining agreement. A person familiar with talks between the sides said MLB asked the union in November about moving back opening day a month to

create a safer playing environment, possibly spurred by the availability of vaccines.

The union asked if the post-season could be moved back to make up the 30 or so missed games, or if the league would pay players for the missed games if they weren't made up. The league declined, saying it wouldn't push the postseason deep into November over broadcast concerns and wouldn't pay players for missed games.

Talks stalled there, and no formal proposals about altering opening day have been exchanged.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Monday because the discussions were considered private.

"The letter correctly notes that MLB does not have the ability to unilaterally make this decision," the players' association said in a statement. "While we, of course, share the goals of a safe spring training and regular season, MLB has repeatedly assured us that it has instructed its teams to be prepared for an on time start to spring training and the regular season and we continue to devote all our efforts to making sure that that takes place as safely as possible."

While the league was able to impose a shortened 60-game regular season in 2020 per the terms of an agreement with the union signed in March, it doesn't have the authority to unilaterally adjust the 2021 season under the current collective bargaining agreement.

The person also confirmed that the union turned down a December offer from the league that included a permanent adoption of an expanded postseason and the universal designated hitter — changes instituted temporarily in 2020.

In the negotiations — first reported by The Athletic on Monday — the league also asked for a variety of on-field changes, including use of a pitch clock and an automated strike zone in spring training. In exchange, it offered to resolve two service-time grievances from last season in the union's favor and boost the players' guaranteed postseason share from \$50 million last season to more than \$80 million, roughly what the players got in 2019.

The union declined the proposal because it is opposed to expanding the postseason, fearing it will disincentivize teams from pursuing free agents. □

Thomas keeps Citi sponsorship with money donated to LGBTQ

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Investment bank Citi decided Monday to keep its sponsorship of Justin Thomas, condemning the anti-gay slur he muttered and requiring him to donate a "meaningful portion" of his deal as part of an active role in LGBTQ causes.

Carla Hassan, the chief marketing officer of New York-based Citi, announced the decision in a company blog post titled, "When an apology isn't enough."

"We considered terminating our relationship with him," she wrote. "It would send a clear and important message, but we decided to use this moment to work

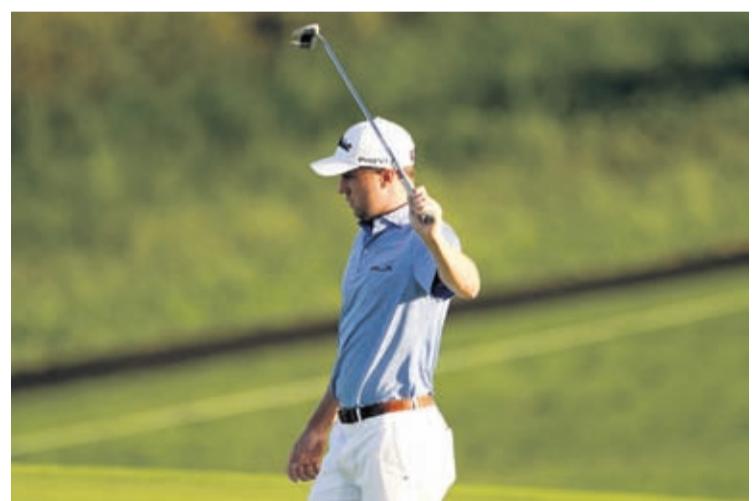
with Justin to try to create change." Thomas, the No. 3 player in the world whose 13 victories at age 27 include a major championship, missed a 4-foot par putt in the Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua on Jan. 9 when television audio caught him muttering the slur under his breath. Thomas apologized after the third and final rounds. Ralph Lauren Corp. ended its sponsorship of him a week later.

Hassan said some of her colleagues felt anything less than cutting ties to Thomas would undermine Citi's commitment to the LGBTQ community and that was considered.

"We want to more than

make it clear that it is wrong to use this word," she wrote. "Instead, we hope our efforts can lead more people to make an affirmative choice not to use this word or others like it — and speak up when others do — because they understand the impact it can have, including on a friend, colleague or teammates who may be struggling with the decision to disclose their sexual orientation."

She said Citi would work with Thomas to help accelerate support for the LGBTQ community and to increase awareness. Terms of his endorsement deal with Citi were not disclosed, nor did the company say how much money would be do-



Justin Thomas reacts to his shot on the 12th green during a practice round prior to the Tournament of Champions golf event, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Associated Press

nated to various organizations as a "meaningful portion" of his sponsorship fee. "If at any point we feel Jus-

tin is not sincere in working toward this goal, we will end our relationship with him," she wrote. □



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Old (Brady), young (Mahomes), different Super Bowl 55 awaits

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

For Tom Brady, another trip to the Super Bowl — but this time, in a Tampa Bay uniform.

And for his new team, the Buccaneers, a first-of-its-kind home game, but without the usual home-field advantage.

To put a bow on this make-it-up-as-we-go NFL season — a campaign upended but never fully undone by the coronavirus pandemic — it comes as no surprise that there is no such thing as a straightforward storyline. Because of restrictions in place due to COVID-19, Tampa Bay's home stadium will only be about a quarter full when the Buccaneers host the Kansas City Chiefs on Feb. 7 in the Super Bowl. The Chiefs opened as a 3.5-point favorite.

The 43-year-old Brady will expand on his record by playing in his 10th Super Bowl, hoping to expand on another record by winning a seventh title, but the first one in his new home of Tampa Bay.

And 25-year-old Patrick Mahomes of the Chiefs will be trying for back-to-back titles, something no quarterback has done since — who else? — Brady, back in his 2003-04 heyday with the New England Patriots.

The showdown will take place at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, where Brady's Bucs will be the first team in the 55-year history of the Super Bowl to play on home turf.

"Whoever would've thought a home Super Bowl for us? But we did it," said Brady, who led the wild-card Buccaneers to a 31-26 win over Green Bay on Sunday to make it three straight road playoff wins on the way back home for the Super Bowl.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady reacts after winning the NFC championship NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers in Green Bay, Wis., Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021. The Buccaneers defeated the Packers 31-26 to advance to the Super Bowl.

Associated Press

But home-field advantage won't mean as much as it normally might. This will be the first Super Bowl not played in front of a capacity crowd since the first one — Kansas City vs. Green Bay at the LA Coliseum — in 1967.

In a nod to how the pandemic has changed everything, the crowd for America's No. 1 sports spectacle will be limited to 22,000 in the 75,000-seat stadium, with vaccinated health-care workers getting 7,500 of those precious tickets.

And even the visiting team — the Chiefs — won't be staying in a hotel all week, the way both conference champions usually do for the Super Bowl. ESPN reported that Kansas City doesn't plan to arrive in Tampa until the day before

the game.

Most interview availabilities, as they have all season, will take place on Zoom from the teams' hometown practice facilities. The farce that has become the Super Bowl's "Opening Night" media session will be a virtual affair, as well. In short, teams will basically treat this like a regular road game (or, in the case of the Bucs, a regular home game), and the Super Bowl city will not much resemble the overflowing party hub it usually does as the big game approaches.

Despite all that, this has the makings of a good matchup, featuring the league's top (Chiefs) and seventh-rated (Bucs) offenses, each with multiple ways to strike: Receiver Tyreek Hill and tight end Travis

Kelce are standouts for KC and former Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski is on Brady's long list of options for Tampa. It is a rematch of Kansas City's 27-24 win on Thanksgiving weekend in Tampa. In that one, Mahomes threw for 462 yards — 269 of them to Hill — to help the Chiefs build an early 17-point lead.

This will be the second high-stakes postseason matchup between Brady and Mahomes. Brady was surgeon-like, leading New England to 524 yards in offense in a 37-31 overtime win over the Chiefs in the AFC title game in January 2019.

It gave New England its third straight trip to the Super Bowl, and Brady's last of nine as a member of the Patriots.

In the two seasons since, Kansas City has represented the AFC.

The Chiefs have done it largely on the arm of Mahomes, though it's his head and his foot that have been making more news of late. He threw for 325 yards and led the Chiefs to a 38-24 victory over Buffalo on Sunday. He did it despite a bout with turf toe that flared up at the end of a week he spent in the NFL's concussion protocol following a hard hit in KC's previous playoff win over Cleveland. (Also a concern now: Pro Bowl left tackle Eric Fisher left Sunday's game with an Achilles injury.)

Mahomes could join Bart Starr, Bob Griese, Terry Bradshaw, Joe Montana, Troy Aikman, John Elway and, of course, Brady on the list of QBs to win two in a row.

As for Brady? He's leading the Buccaneers to only their second Super Bowl; the Bucs won on their first trip, back in 2002. Brad Johnson

was the quarterback then. But nobody would mistake Johnson for Brady, who could join Peyton Manning as the only other quarterback to win a Super Bowl with two franchises.

It could happen the day after Manning gets the call from the Hall of Fame; Manning is newly eligible this year and is a shoo-in to get in the night before the game.

Soon enough, Brady will be there, as well.

Clearly, though, he still feels his home is on the football field.

"The belief he gave everybody in this organization, that this could be done," said Bucs coach Bruce Arians, when asked to explain what Brady's arrival meant to the franchise. "It only took one man." □